(d) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July 91 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. Rupee has been made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange. These have been further consolidated in the new Export Import Policy which, inter-alia, aims to promote productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. The exports during April-June 1992 amounted to US $ 4013 million as compared to US $ 3999 million during April-June 1991 thereby showing an increase of 0.4%. The exports to the General Currency Area Countries increased by 8.4 per cent in dollar terms during this period.

Exploitation of coffee growers

4201. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coffee Planters are exploited by concerned Government agencies in connivance with Coffee Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that coffee planters in large numbers are under debts due to adverse policies of his Ministry;

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to provide relief to the coffee planters from the debts incurred due to such wrong policies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of minerals from Bihar

4202. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State of Bihar has the potential of exports, particularly, in the field of minerals;

(b) if so, what are the details of minerals exported from the State of Bihar during the last five years;

(c) whether the minerals are being exported by Government agencies or private exporters;

(d) what incentives are being given by Government to private exporters; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to step up exports of mineral from the State of Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Iron Ore, Mica and Coal are the main minerals exported from Bihar during the last five years.

(c) Exports of minerals are being effected both by Government agencies and private exporters.

(d) and (e) Apart from the benefit under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act extended to exports of processed minerals in 1991-92, exporters of minerals and ores are eligible for benefit of partial convertibility under the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management Scheme.

Export of Indian Leather Goods

4203. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian leather goods export is earning very good foerign exchange in Europe and U.S.;